

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-33 are now pending in the application with claims 2 and 7-33 having been withdrawn. Claim 4 is currently amended. No claims have been cancelled and no new claims have been added by this amendment. Support for the foregoing amendment can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 4 so as to depend on claim 1. Since claims 5 and 6 presently depend on claim 4, claims 5 and 6 ultimately depend on claim 1 without amending their dependencies. Thus, Applicant asserts that the amendment to claim 4 overcomes this rejection and claims 4-6 are in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizobe (JP 05-337839) ("Mizobe") in view of Myoga (JP 4-4766) ("Myoga"). Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizobe in view of Ohnishi (U.S. Pat. No. 4,965,482) ("Ohnishi"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In view of the Examiner's comments in the "Response to Arguments" section of the final Office Action, Applicant requests the Examiner reconsider the arguments presented in the response filed September 26, 2008. In the remarks included with the response, Applicant made statements as to "FIG. 1 described below" and "FIG. 2 described below" with reference to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 found in the "Figures Referenced in Remarks" on page 20 of the response. However, the Examiner seems to incorrectly regard "FIG. 1 described below" and "FIG. 2 described below" as pertaining to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 of the drawings in the present application (see page 2, lines 3-12, of the final Office Action). Given the above circumstances, Applicant maintains that the remarks filed on September 26, 2008 were not fully considered by the Examiner. A proper understanding of these remarks with reference to page 20 of the prior response supports Applicant's position that claim 1 represents patentable subject matter over Mizobe, Myoga, and Ohnishi. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

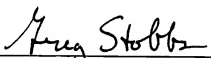
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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